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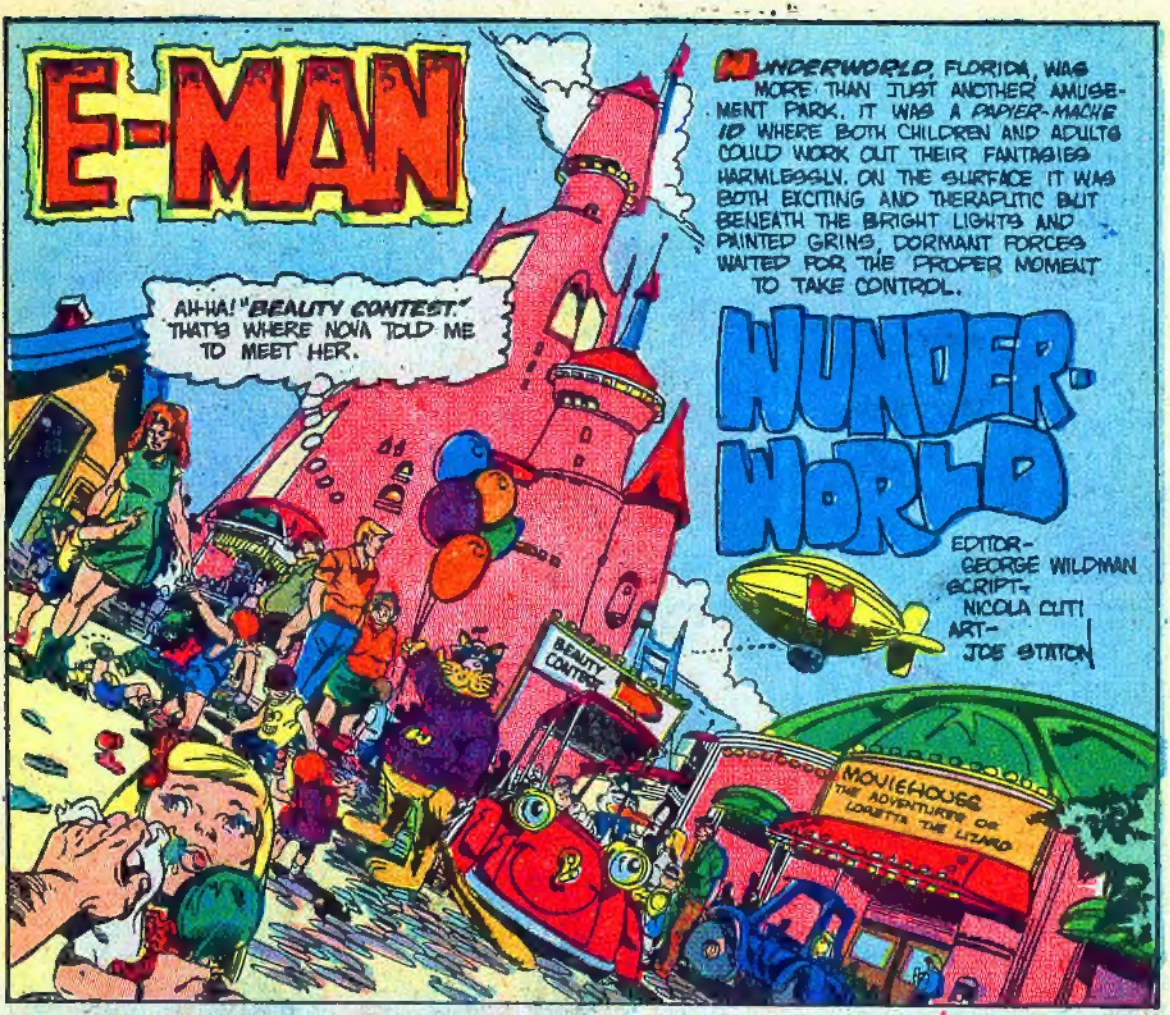
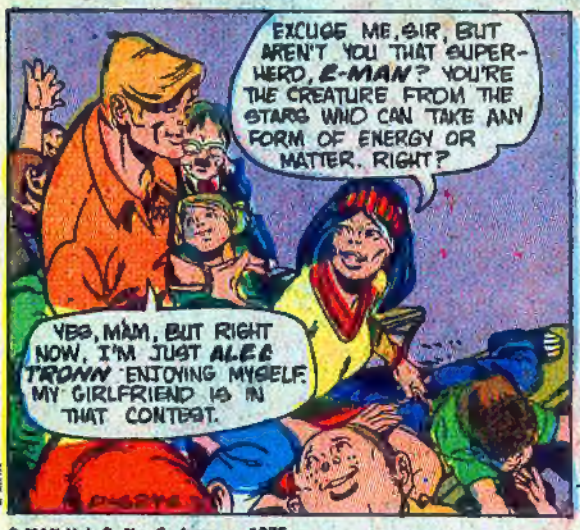
E-MAN

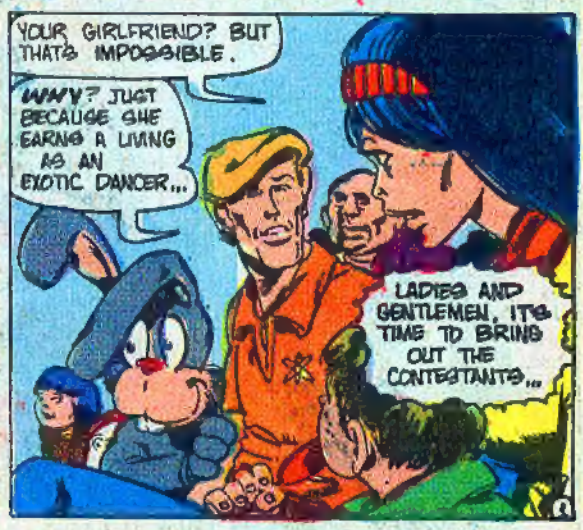

AH-HA! "BEAUTY CONTEST." THAT'S WHERE NOVA TOLD ME TO MEET HER.
BEAUTY CONTEST
MOVIEHOUSES THE ADVENTURES OF LORETTA THE LIZARD

UNDERWORLD, FLORIDA, WAS MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER AMUSEMENT PARK. IT WAS A *PAPIER-MACHE ID* WHERE BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS COULD WORK OUT THEIR FANTASIES HARMLESSLY. ON THE SURFACE IT WAS BOTH EXCITING AND THERAPUTIC BUT BENEATH THE BRIGHT LIGHTS AND PAINTED GRINS, DORMANT FORCES WAITED FOR THE PROPER MOMENT TO TAKE CONTROL.

UNDER-WORLD

EDITOR- GEORGE WILDMAN
SCRIPT- NICOLA CUTI
ART- JOE STATON


EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT AREN'T YOU THAT SUPER-HERO, E-MAN? YOU'RE THE CREATURE FROM THE STARS WHO CAN TAKE ANY FORM OF ENERGY OR MATTER, RIGHT?
YES, MAM, BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST ALEC TRONN ENJOYING MYSELF. MY GIRLFRIEND IS IN THAT CONTEST.


YOUR GIRLFRIEND? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHY? JUST BECAUSE SHE EARNS A LIVING AS AN EXOTIC DANCER...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME TO BRING OUT THE CONTESTANTS...

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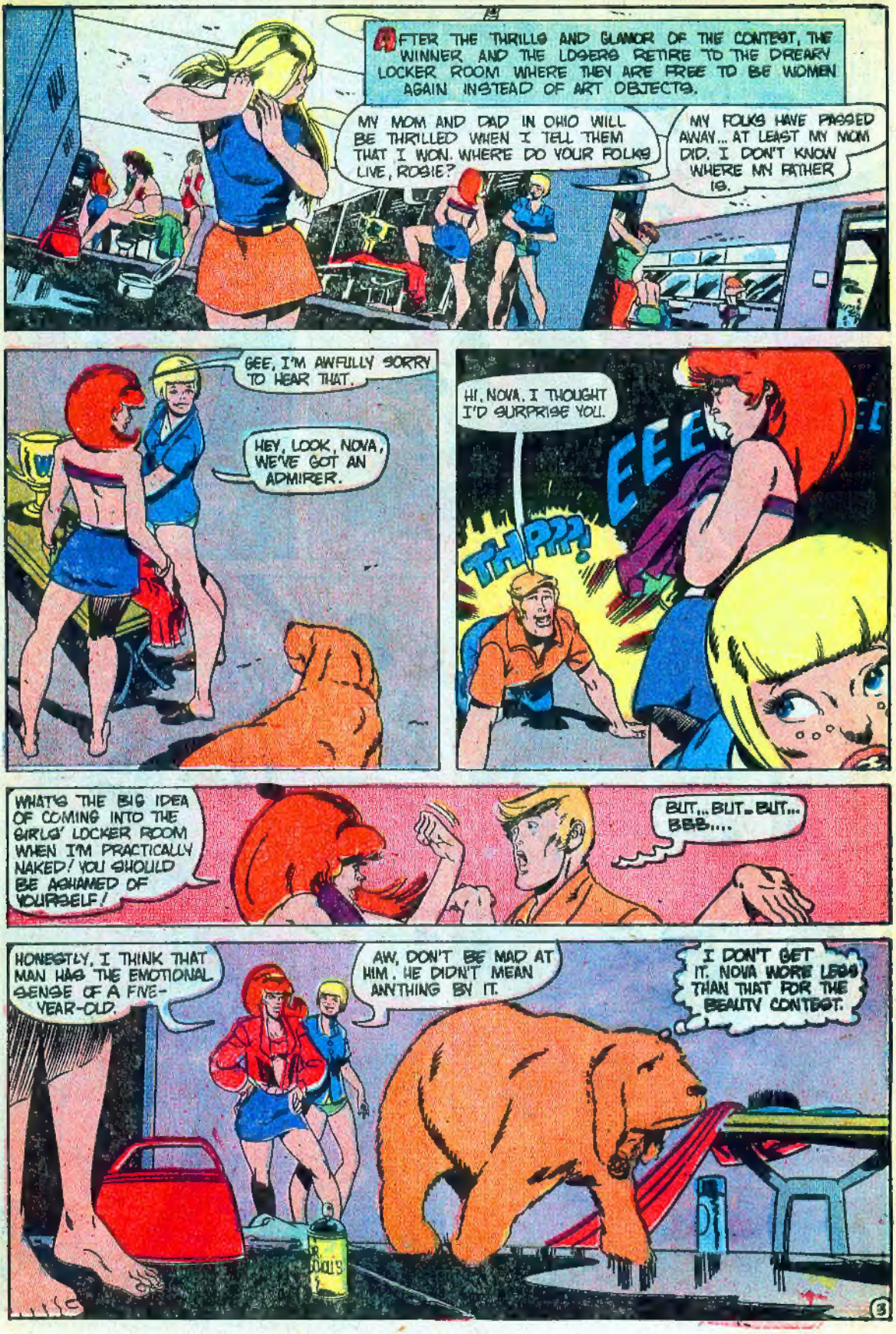
...FOR THE LITTLE MISS WUNDER BEAUTY CONTEST!!
TELL ME, MR. TRONN, WHICH ONE IS YOUR GIRL?? ...WHERE DID HE GO?
THAT'S GOT TO BE THE RIGHT PLACE BUT I'LL STAY THE WAY I AM UNTIL I'M SURE.
ROSKO RABBIT MEN
WHERE'S ALEC? IN SPACE HE CAN EASILY FIND HIS WAY FROM AQUARIUS TO ANDROMEDA BUT ON EARTH HE GETS LOST IN A PHONE BOOTH.
AND THE DECISION OF OUR JUDGES IS....
BY UNANIMOUS CHOICE... MS. NOVA KANE!!
I WON?!
NOVA, I'M SO GLAD!
SEE WALDMAN EATS SPINACH


AFTER THE THRILLS AND GLAMOR OF THE CONTEST, THE WINNER AND THE LOSERS RETIRE TO THE DREARY LOCKER ROOM WHERE THEY ARE FREE TO BE WOMEN AGAIN INSTEAD OF ART OBJECTS.
MY MOM AND DAD IN OHIO WILL BE THRILLED WHEN I TELL THEM THAT I WON. WHERE DO YOUR FOLKS LIVE, ROSIE?
MY FOLKS HAVE PASSED AWAY... AT LEAST MY MOM DID. I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY FATHER IS.
GEE, I'M AWFULLY SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
HEY, LOOK, NOVA, WE'VE GOT AN ADMIRER.
HI, NOVA. I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE YOU.
EEE
THP??!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA OF COMING INTO THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM WHEN I'M PRACTICALLY NAKED! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!
BUT... BUT - BUT... BEB....
HONESTLY, I THINK THAT MAN HAS THE EMOTIONAL SENSE OF A FIVE-YEAR-OLD.
AW, DON'T BE MAD AT HIM. HE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
I DON'T GET IT. NOVA WORE LESS THAN THAT FOR THE BEAUTY CONTEST.
3

OUTSIDE A PUZZLED ALEC FINDS THAT ALL IS FORGIVEN.
COME ON, PEEPING TOM, LET'S GO AND ENJOY WUNDERLAND.
MS. KANE...
I'M THE OWNER OF THIS PARK AND THE ONES IN CALIFORNIA AND NEBRASKA. I'M WILLIAM WUNDER. A PART OF YOUR WINNINGS WAS A FREE GUIDED TOUR THROUGH WUNDERWORLD FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR BOYFRIEND... GUIDED BY ME.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT. THIS IS ALEC TRONN.
BOTH OF YOU, PLEASE CALL ME WILL AND ALLOW ONE OF MY HELPERS TO SEND THIS TO YOU. WE'LL BEGIN OUR TOUR IN IDEALLAND.
HERE PEOPLE ARE FREE TO PURSUE THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF CIVILIZATION... ART, WRITING, PHILOSOPHY, OR JUST TO GO FOR A SWIM IN THE OLD WATER HOLE.
AND THIS IS A CHILD'S IDEA OF PARADISE. THE NEXT SECTION OF WUNDERWORLD IS CALLED PLEASURELAND.
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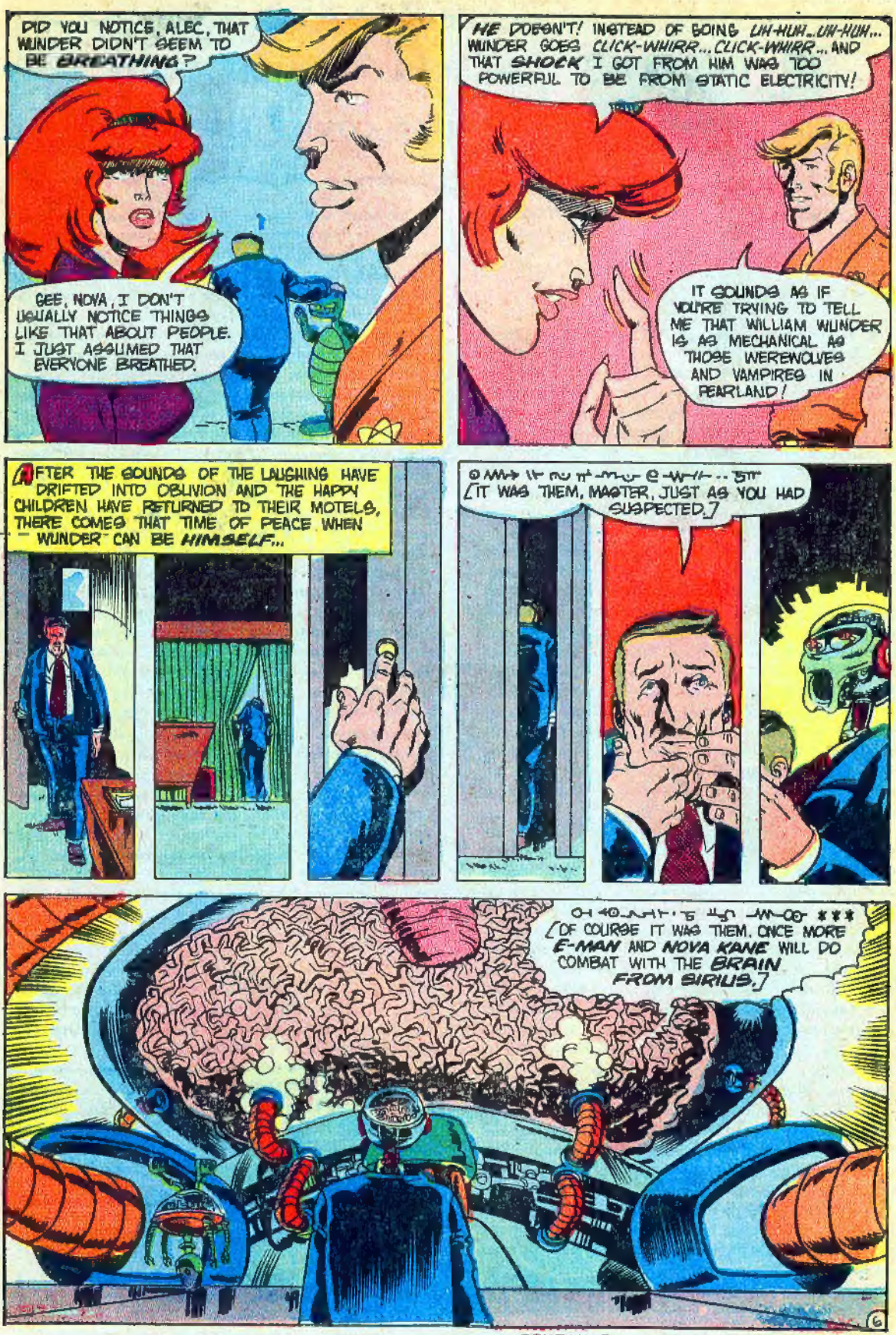
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

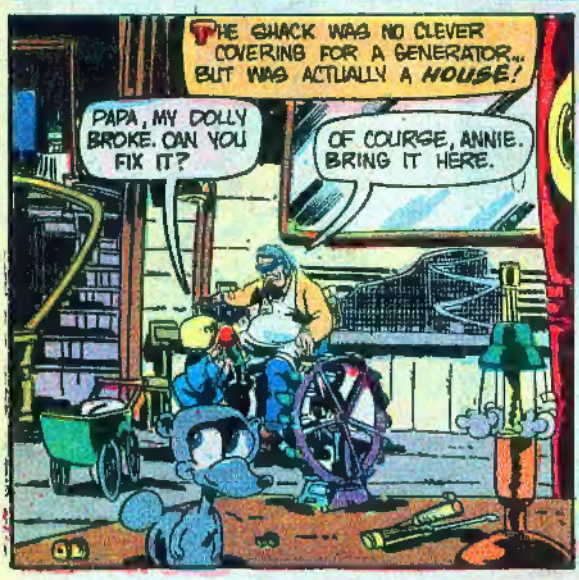
IN' PLEASURELAND PEOPLE ARE FREE TO ENJOY THEMSELVES. SO LONG AS ONE CAUSES NO HARM, NOTHING IS FORBIDDEN.
WHAT IS THE CHILDREN'S SECTION LIKE?
IT'S A PLAYLAND BUT ADULTS ARE FORBIDDEN THERE.
WE ARE NOW IN FEARLAND. AS YOU CAN SEE, THESE ARE MYTHOLOGICAL FEARS. IF WE USED REALLY FRIGHTENING THINGS SUCH AS WAR, CRIME, OR POLITICAL CORRUPTION, IT WOULD BE TOO HORRIFYING A RIDE FOR AN AMUSEMENT PARK.
KAPN KELLY
WHAT'S IN THERE?
OH... UH... THAT PLACE IS... UH... IT REPRESENTS THE HIDDEN FEARS WHICH WE KEEP LOCKED UP. WELL, THAT ENDS THE TOUR.
POSSUM
IT'S NEARLY CLOSING TIME, SO I'LL BID YOU BOTH FAREWELL.
oOOUCH!
NOVA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YEAH, I JUST GOT A SHOCK FROM SOME STATIC ELECTRICITY. GOOD-BYE, MR. WUNDER, IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
6

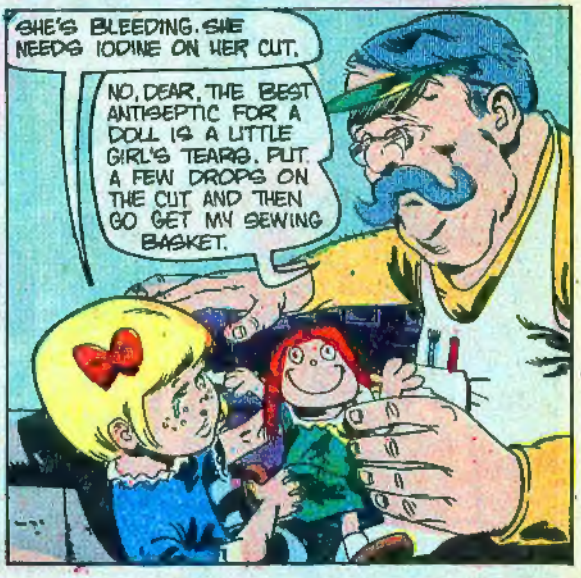

DID YOU NOTICE, ALEC, THAT WUNDER DIDN'T SEEM TO BE BREATHING?
GEE, NOVA, I DON'T USUALLY NOTICE THINGS LIKE THAT ABOUT PEOPLE. I JUST ASSUMED THAT EVERYONE BREATHED.
HE DOESN'T! INSTEAD OF GOING UH-HUH...UH-HUH... WUNDER GOES CLICK-WHIRR...CLICK-WHIRR... AND THAT SHOCK I GOT FROM HIM WAS TOO POWERFUL TO BE FROM STATIC ELECTRICITY!
IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME THAT WILLIAM WUNDER IS AS MECHANICAL AS THOSE WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRES IN FEARLAND!
AFTER THE SOUNDS OF THE LAUGHING HAVE DRIFTED INTO OBLIVION AND THE HAPPY CHILDREN HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR MOTELS, THERE COMES THAT TIME OF PEACE WHEN WUNDER CAN BE HIMSELF...
[IT WAS THEM, MASTER, JUST AS YOU HAD SUSPECTED.]
[OF COURSE IT WAS THEM. ONCE MORE E-MAN AND NOVA KANE WILL DO COMBAT WITH THE BRAIN FROM SIRIUS.]

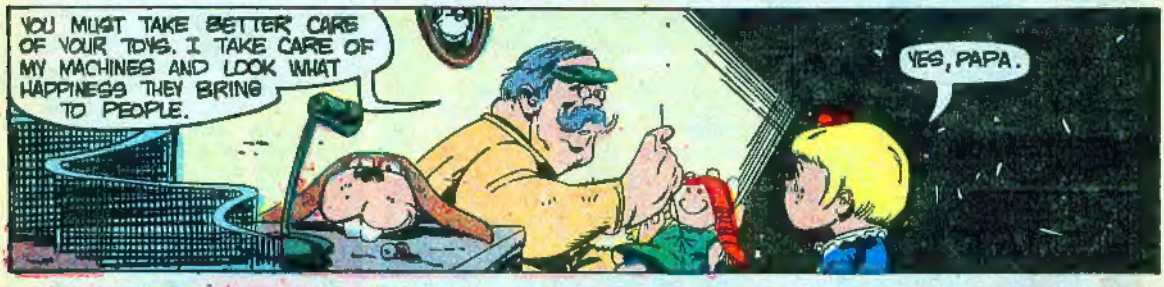
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

MIDNIGHT. A COOL FLORIDA BREEZE BLOWS THROUGH THE DESERTED WALKWAYS WHERE ONLY THE GHOSTS OF MEMORIES PLAY.
PART TWO
FEED DEXTER DUCK
PLEASE TURN HERE
BUT EVEN THE GHOSTS ARE NOT SAFE FROM INTRUDERS.
I THOUGHT THOSE SWEEPERS WOULD NEVER LEAVE.
FEED DEXT
THIS PLACE IS SPOOKY LATE AT NIGHT. I WISH E-MAN HAD DECIDED TO COME ALONG WITH ME.
OUCH!
I DID.
FEED DEXTER DUCK
YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS YOU.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE SELF-CONSCIOUS. OKAY, SO WHERE DO WE START?
FEED DEXTER DUCK
WUNDER BECAME VERY NERVOUS WHEN YOU MENTIONED THAT SWAMP SHANTY IN FEARLAND. LET'S FIND OUT WHY.
IT WAS PROBABLY HIS WAY OF COVERING UP THE FACT THAT I LOCATED A GENERATOR OR CONTROL ROOM IN DISGUISE. BUT WE MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT OUT.
7

I WAS RIGHT! SEE, THERE ARE LIGHTS ON.
THERE JUST MIGHT BE SOMEONE INSIDE... BUT WHO?

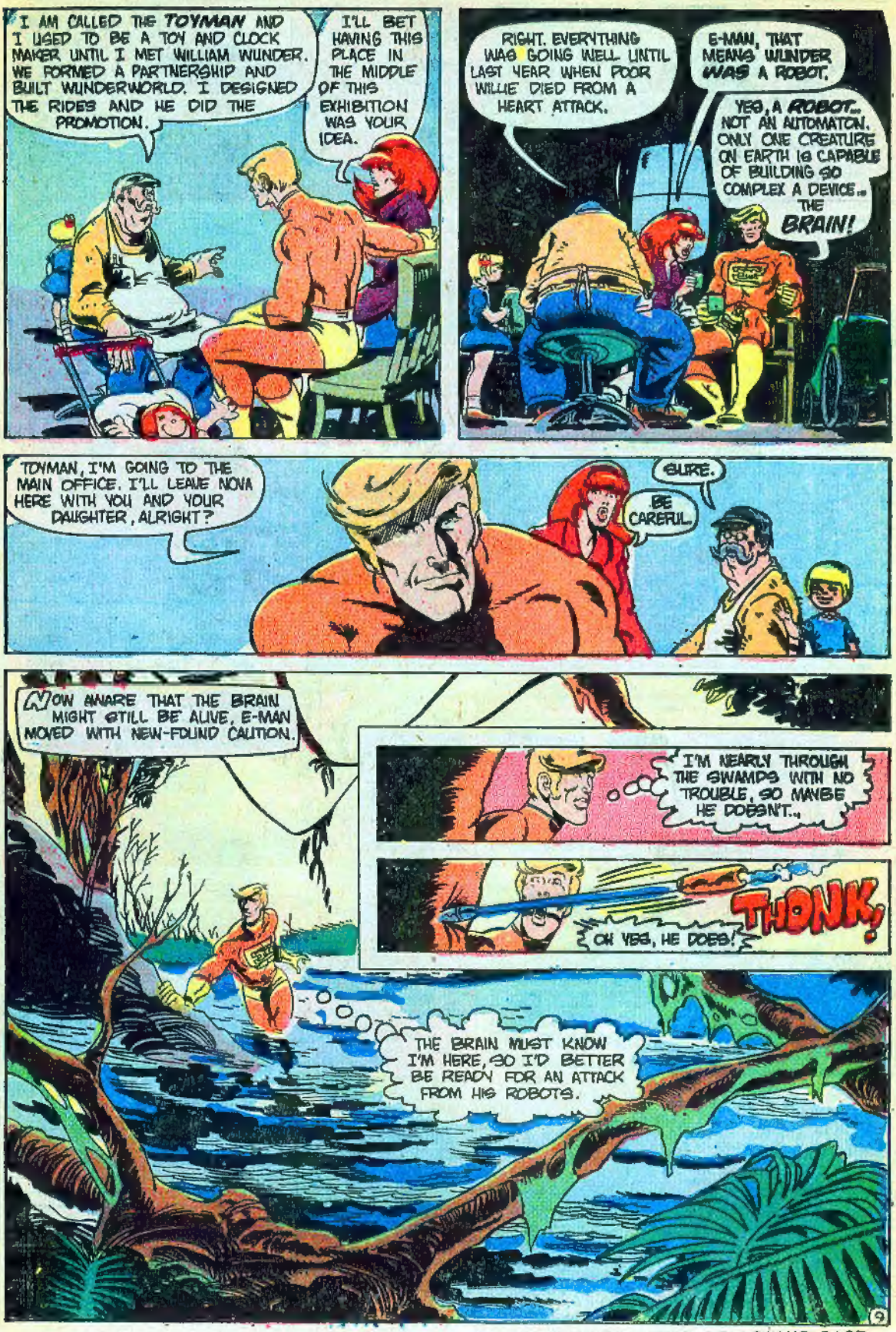

THE SHACK WAS NO CLEVER COVERING FOR A GENERATOR... BUT WAS ACTUALLY A HOUSE!
PAPA, MY DOLLY BROKE. CAN YOU FIX IT?
OF COURSE, ANNIE. BRING IT HERE.


SHE'S BLEEDING. SHE NEEDS IODINE ON HER CUT.
NO, DEAR, THE BEST ANTISEPTIC FOR A DOLL IS A LITTLE GIRL'S TEARS. PUT A FEW DROPS ON THE CUT AND THEN GO GET MY SEWING BASKET.


YOU MUST TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR TOYS. I TAKE CARE OF MY MACHINES AND LOOK WHAT HAPPINESS THEY BRING TO PEOPLE.
YES, PAPA.

HERE YOU ARE, SWEETHEART, NOW, I...
WELL, I'LL BE... THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE!
YOU ARE PEOPLE, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE NOT AUTOMATONS?!

YES, WE'RE REAL. SOONER OR LATER I KNEW THAT SOMEONE WOULD DISCOVER MY LITTLE HIDE-A-WAY HERE. SIT DOWN AND I'LL HAVE ANNIE BREW US SOME COFFEE.
MAY WE ASK WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?


I AM CALLED THE TOYMAN AND I USED TO BE A TOY AND CLOCK MAKER UNTIL I MET WILLIAM WUNDER. WE FORMED A PARTNERSHIP AND BUILT WUNDERWORLD. I DESIGNED THE RIDES AND HE DID THE PROMOTION.
I'LL BET HAVING THIS PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS EXHIBITION WAS YOUR IDEA.
RIGHT. EVERYTHING WAS GOING WELL UNTIL LAST YEAR WHEN POOR WILLIE DIED FROM A HEART ATTACK.
E-MAN, THAT MEANS WUNDER WAS A ROBOT.
YES, A ROBOT... NOT AN AUTOMATON. ONLY ONE CREATURE ON EARTH IS CAPABLE OF BUILDING SO COMPLEX A DEVICE... THE BRAIN!
TOYMAN, I'M GOING TO THE MAIN OFFICE. I'LL LEAVE NOVA HERE WITH YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER, ALRIGHT?
SURE.
BE CAREFUL.
NOW AWARE THAT THE BRAIN MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE, E-MAN MOVED WITH NEW-FOUND CAUTION.
I'M NEARLY THROUGH THE SWAMPS WITH NO TROUBLE, SO MAYBE HE DOESN'T...
THONK!
OH YES, HE DOES!
THE BRAIN MUST KNOW I'M HERE, SO I'D BETTER BE READY FOR AN ATTACK FROM HIS ROBOTS.
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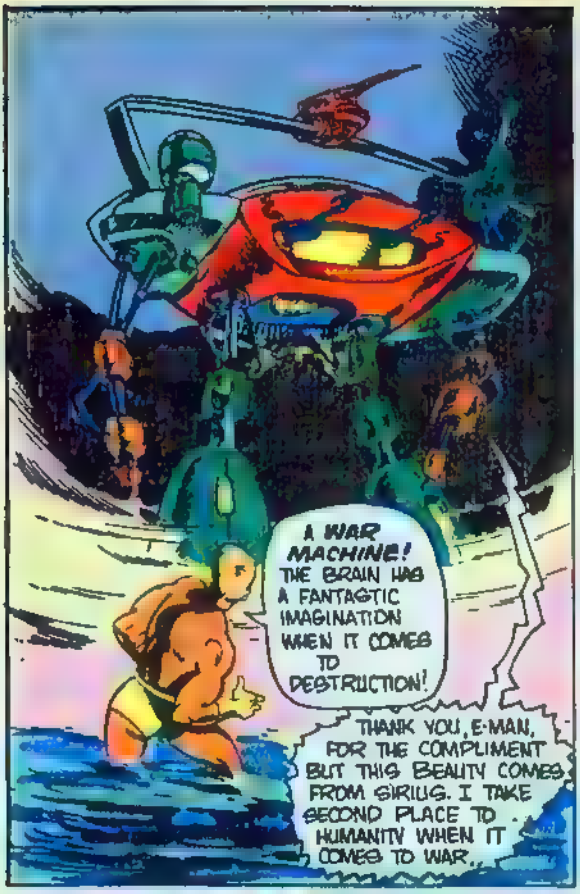
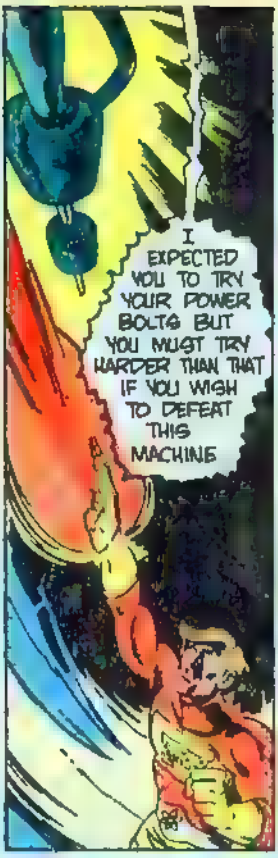
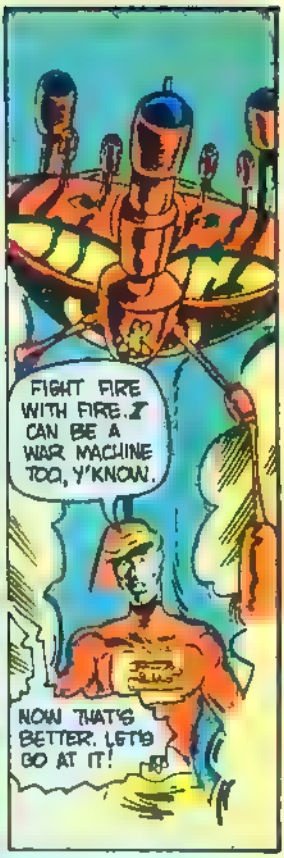
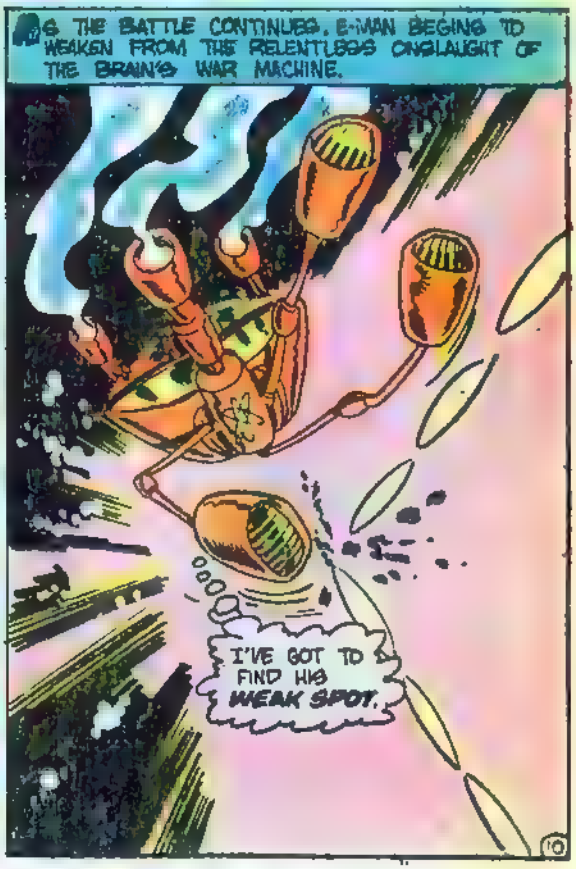
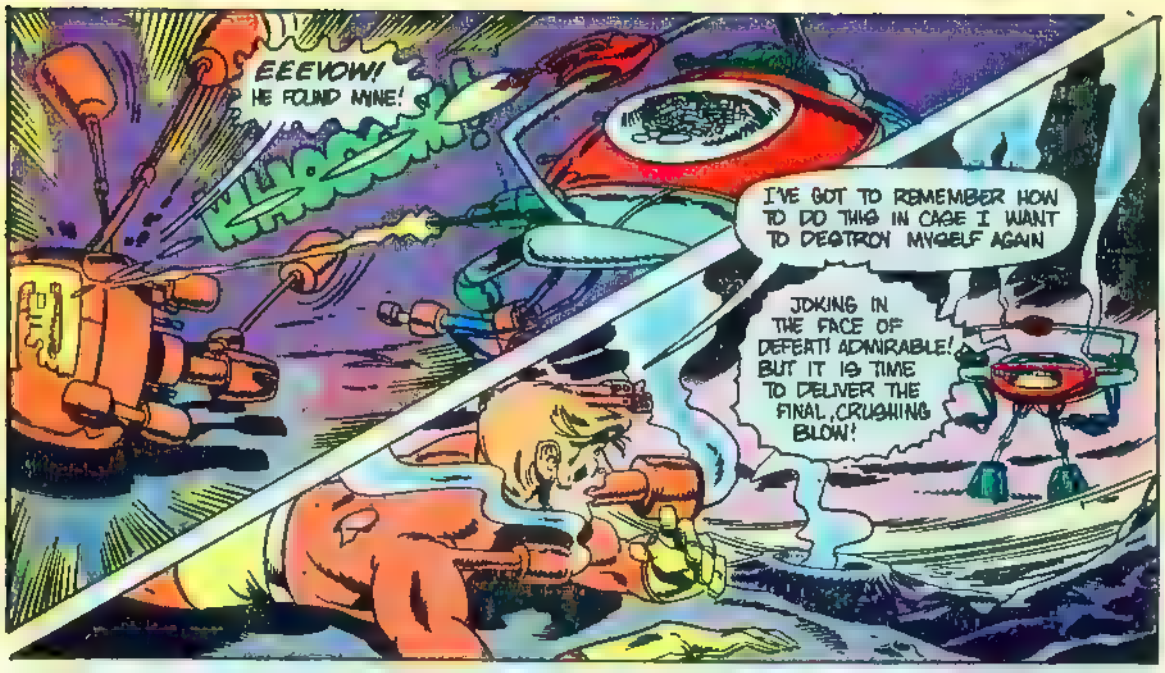

A WAR MACHINE! THE BRAIN HAS A FANTASTIC IMAGINATION WHEN IT COMES TO DESTRUCTION!
THANK YOU, E-MAN, FOR THE COMPLIMENT BUT THIS BEAUTY COMES FROM SIRIUS. I TAKE SECOND PLACE TO HUMANITY WHEN IT COMES TO WAR.


I EXPECTED YOU TO TRY YOUR POWER BOLTS BUT YOU MUST TRY HARDER THAN THAT IF YOU WISH TO DEFEAT THIS MACHINE

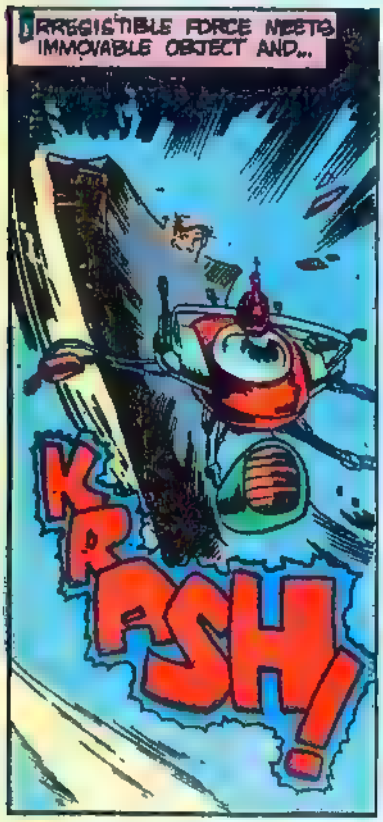

FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. I CAN BE A WAR MACHINE TOO, Y'KNOW.
NOW THAT'S BETTER. LET'S GO AT IT!

BOOM!
BAM!
ZZZT
OOOOM!

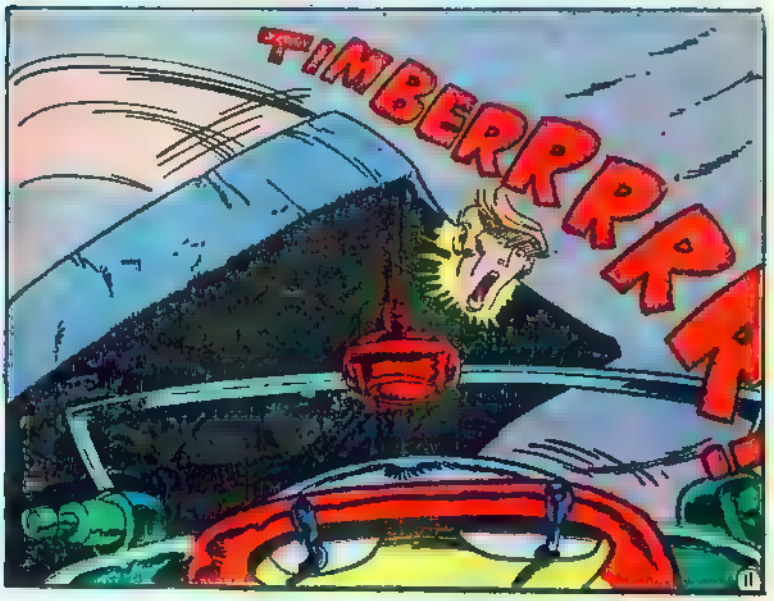

AS THE BATTLE CONTINUES, E-MAN BEGINS TO WEAKEN FROM THE RELENTLESS ONSLAUGHT OF THE BRAIN'S WAR MACHINE.
I'VE GOT TO FIND HIS WEAK SPOT.
10


EEEVOW! HE FOUND MINE!
I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER HOW TO DO THIS IN CASE I WANT TO DESTROY MYSELF AGAIN
JOKING IN THE FACE OF DEFEAT! ADMIRABLE! BUT IT IS TIME TO DELIVER THE FINAL, CRUSHING BLOW!

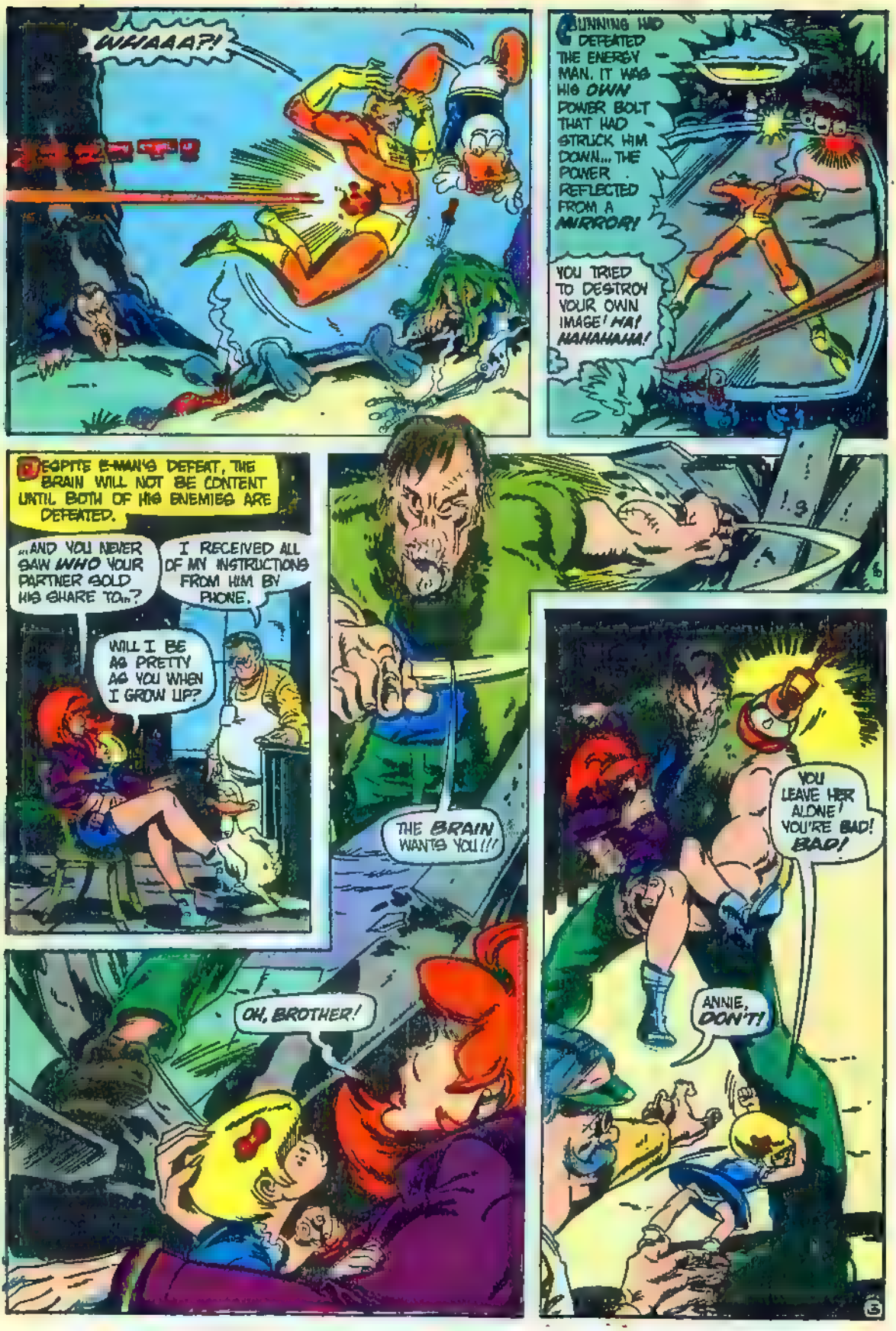
HE'S CHARGING! RIGHT NOW I OUGHT TO BE A BRICK WALL...OR... CONCRETE REINFORCED BY STEEL!

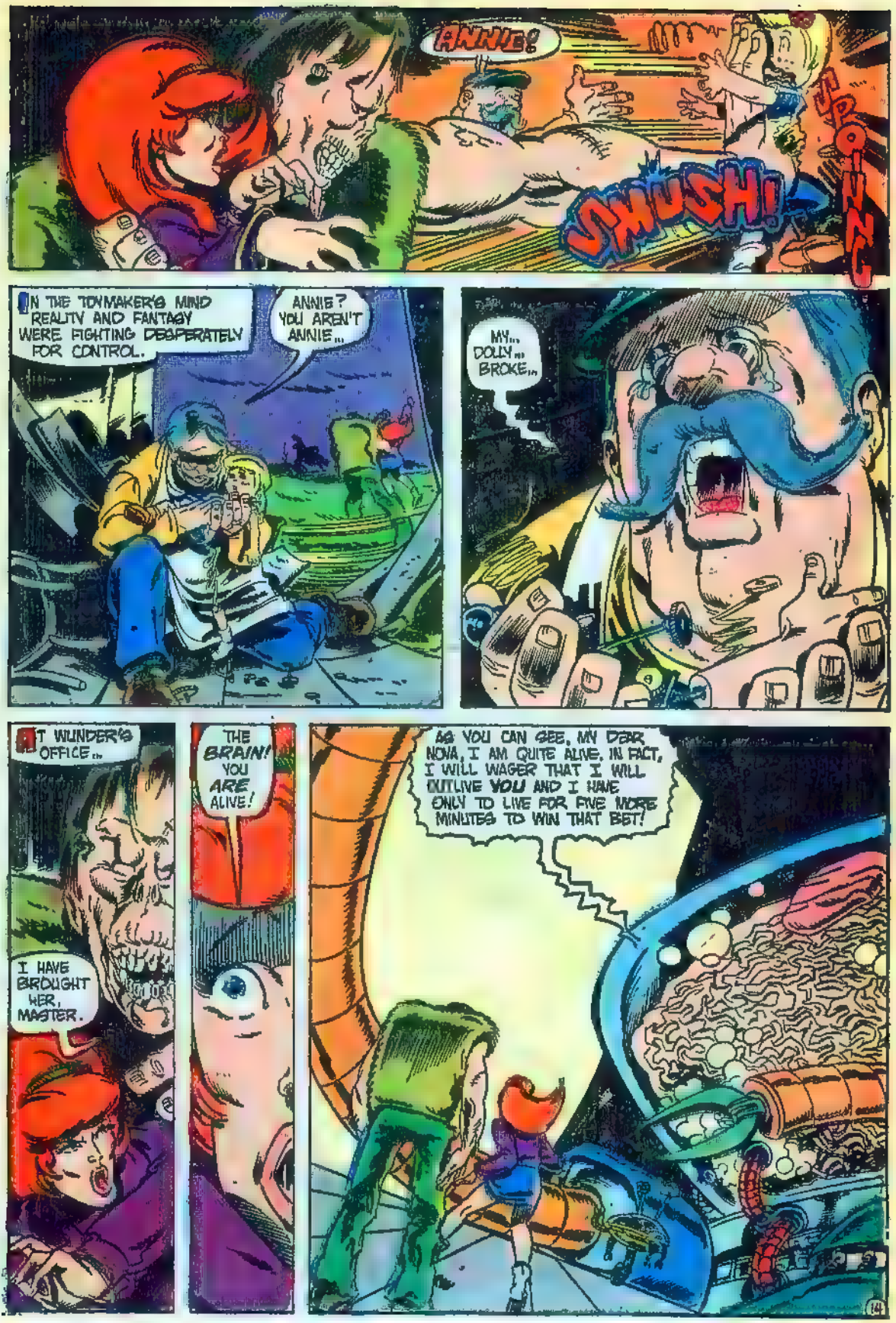

IRRESISTIBLE FORCE MEETS IMMOVABLE OBJECT AND...
KRASH!

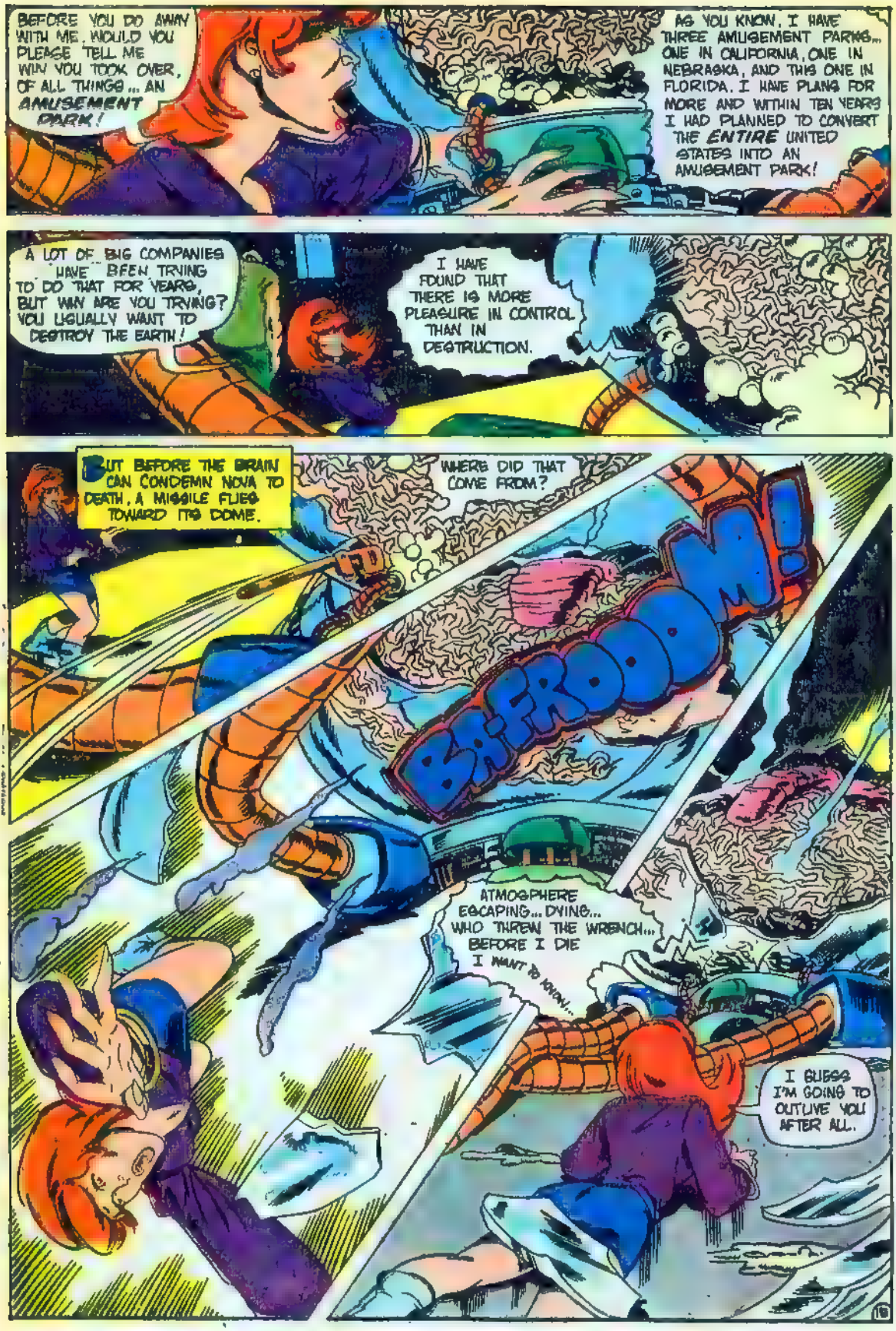
THE WAR MACHINE STAGGERS AWAY, DAMAGED.


TIMBERRRRR

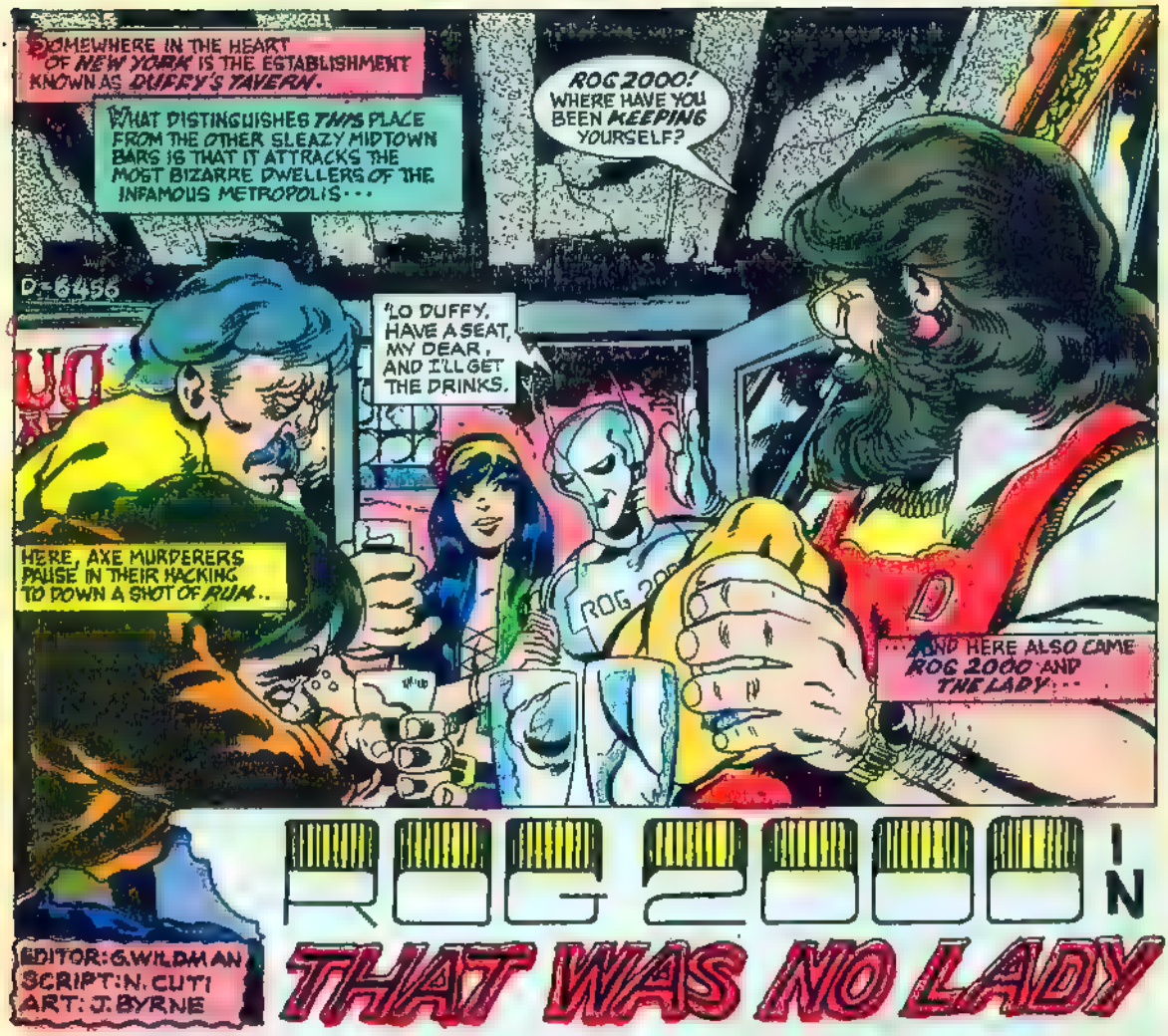
KRAK
THAT WAS WHAT I NEEDED!
BEFORE YOU BECOME TOO COMPLACENT WITH VICTORY BE ASSURED THAT I EXPECTED YOU TO WIN. IT WAS AN OLD MODEL.
I EXPECT TO DEFEAT YOU WITH CUNNING, NOT JUST BRUTE FORCE. MY TOKS WILL KEEP YOU BUSY UNTIL I CAN GET YOU INTO POSITION.
THIS IS TOO EASY... I WONDER WHAT THE BRAIN REALLY HAS IN STORE FOR ME.
BEHIND YOU! IN THE UNDERGROWTH!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.
12

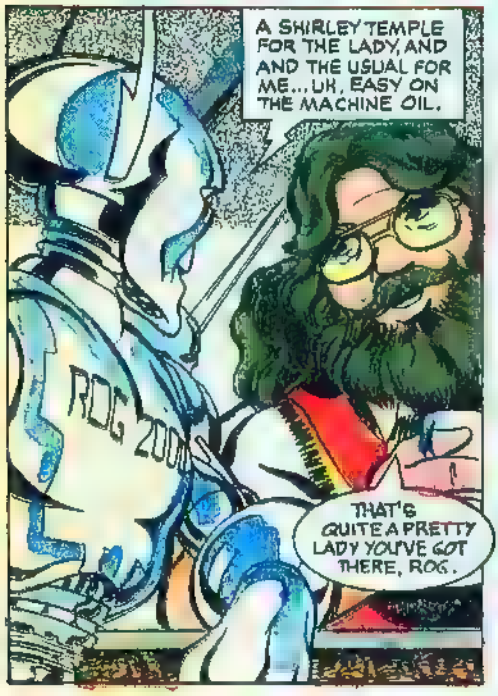

WHAAAP!
GUNNING HAD DEFEATED THE ENERGY MAN. IT WAS HIS OWN POWER BOLT THAT HAD STRUCK HIM DOWN... THE POWER REFLECTED FROM A MIRROR!
YOU TRIED TO DESTROY YOUR OWN IMAGE! HA! HAHAHAHA!
DESPITE E-MAN'S DEFEAT, THE BRAIN WILL NOT BE CONTENT UNTIL BOTH OF HIS ENEMIES ARE DEFEATED.
...AND YOU NEVER SAW WHO YOUR PARTNER SOLD HIS SHARE TO...?
I RECEIVED ALL OF MY INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIM BY PHONE.
WILL I BE AS PRETTY AS YOU WHEN I GROW UP?
THE BRAIN WANTS YOU!!!
OH, BROTHER!
YOU LEAVE HER ALONE! YOU'RE BAD! BAD!
ANNIE, DON'T!

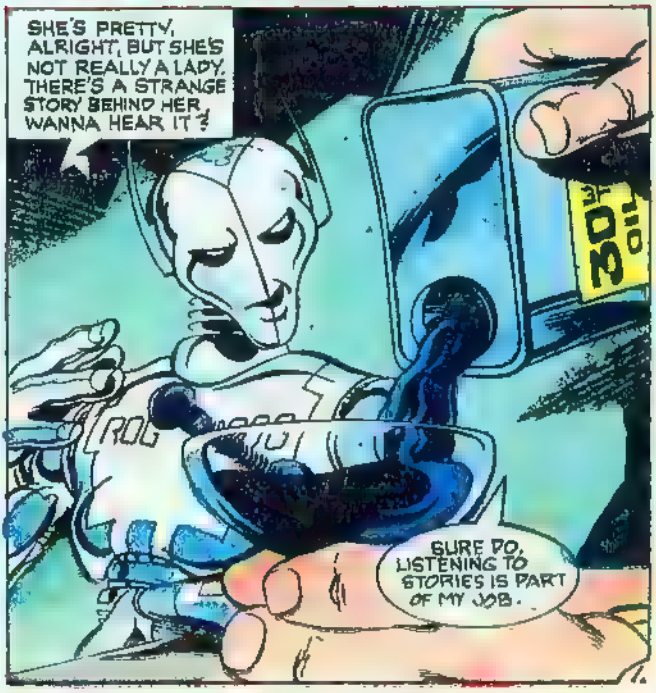

ANNIE!
SMUSH!
BOINNG
IN THE TOYMAKER'S MIND REALITY AND FANTASY WERE FIGHTING DESPERATELY FOR CONTROL.
ANNIE? YOU AREN'T ANNIE...
MY... DOLLY... BROKE...
T WUNDER'S OFFICE...
I HAVE BROUGHT HER, MASTER.
THE BRAIN! YOU ARE ALIVE!
AS YOU CAN SEE, MY DEAR NOVA, I AM QUITE ALIVE. IN FACT, I WILL WAGER THAT I WILL OUTLIVE YOU AND I HAVE ONLY TO LIVE FOR FIVE MORE MINUTES TO WIN THAT BET!


BEFORE YOU DO AWAY WITH ME, WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHY YOU TOOK OVER, OF ALL THINGS... AN AMUSEMENT PARK!
AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE THREE AMUSEMENT PARKS... ONE IN CALIFORNIA, ONE IN NEBRASKA, AND THIS ONE IN FLORIDA. I HAVE PLANS FOR MORE AND WITHIN TEN YEARS I HAD PLANNED TO CONVERT THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES INTO AN AMUSEMENT PARK!
A LOT OF BIG COMPANIES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO THAT FOR YEARS, BUT WHY ARE YOU TRYING? YOU USUALLY WANT TO DESTROY THE EARTH!
I HAVE FOUND THAT THERE IS MORE PLEASURE IN CONTROL THAN IN DESTRUCTION.
BUT BEFORE THE BRAIN CAN CONDEMN NOVA TO DEATH, A MISSILE FLIES TOWARD ITS DOME.
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
B-FROOM!!
ATMOSPHERE ESCAPING... DYING... WHO THREW THE WRENCH... BEFORE I DIE I WANT TO KNOW...
I GUESS I'M GOING TO OUTLIVE YOU AFTER ALL.
19

I DID IT! I DID IT BECAUSE YOU TOOK MY TOYS AND CORRUPTED THEM, I DID IT BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO MAKE ME YOUR SLAVE BY GIVING ME A MACHINE IN THE IMAGE OF MY LOST DAUGHTER, I DID IT --TO SAVE MY SANITY!
LIKE MOST VILLAINS, THE BRAIN HAD CAUSED ITS OWN DEFEAT BY PUSHING A DECENT MAN TOO FAR. BUT NOVA COULD NOT ENJOY THE TRIUMPH BECAUSE E-MAN WAS STILL AMONG THE MISSING.
AS SOON AS I FIND E-MAN, WE'LL BE FLYING BACK TO NEW YORK. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE GOING BACK TO YOUR SHACK.
NEON PALM MOTEL
NO, I WANT TO BE AMONG PEOPLE AGAIN.
I ALSO WANT TO LOCATE MY DAUGHTER. SHE MUST BE ALL GROWN UP BY NOW... SO IF YOU EVER HEAR OF A GIRL BY THE NAME OF ROSEANN GILLETTI, LET ME KNOW.
BUT THAT'S MY NAME... MY REAL NAME! PAPA?!
YOU'RE MY ANNIE, MY LITTLE GIRL?!
IT'S ME, PAPA, IT'S ME!
SAY, YOU GUYS, YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT HAPPENED TO ME. AFTER THE BRAIN CLOBBERED ME TWICE I FIGURED I'D PLAY IT SAFE AND DISGUISED MYSELF AS A MONKEY WRENCH. SUDDENLY, SOMEONE PICKED ME UP AND...
END


SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK IS THE ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN AS DUFFY'S TAVERN.
WHAT DISTINGUISHES THIS PLACE FROM THE OTHER SLEAZY MIDTOWN BARS IS THAT IT ATTRACKS THE MOST BIZARRE DWELLERS OF THE INFAMOUS METROPOLIS...
ROG 2000! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF?
D-6456
'LO DUFFY, HAVE A SEAT, MY DEAR, AND I'LL GET THE DRINKS.
HERE, AXE MURDERERS PAUSE IN THEIR HACKING TO DOWN A SHOT OF RUM..
...AND HERE ALSO CAME ROG 2000 AND THE LADY...
ROG 2000 IN
THAT WAS NO LADY
EDITOR: G. WILDMAN
SCRIPT: N. CUTI
ART: J. BYRNE

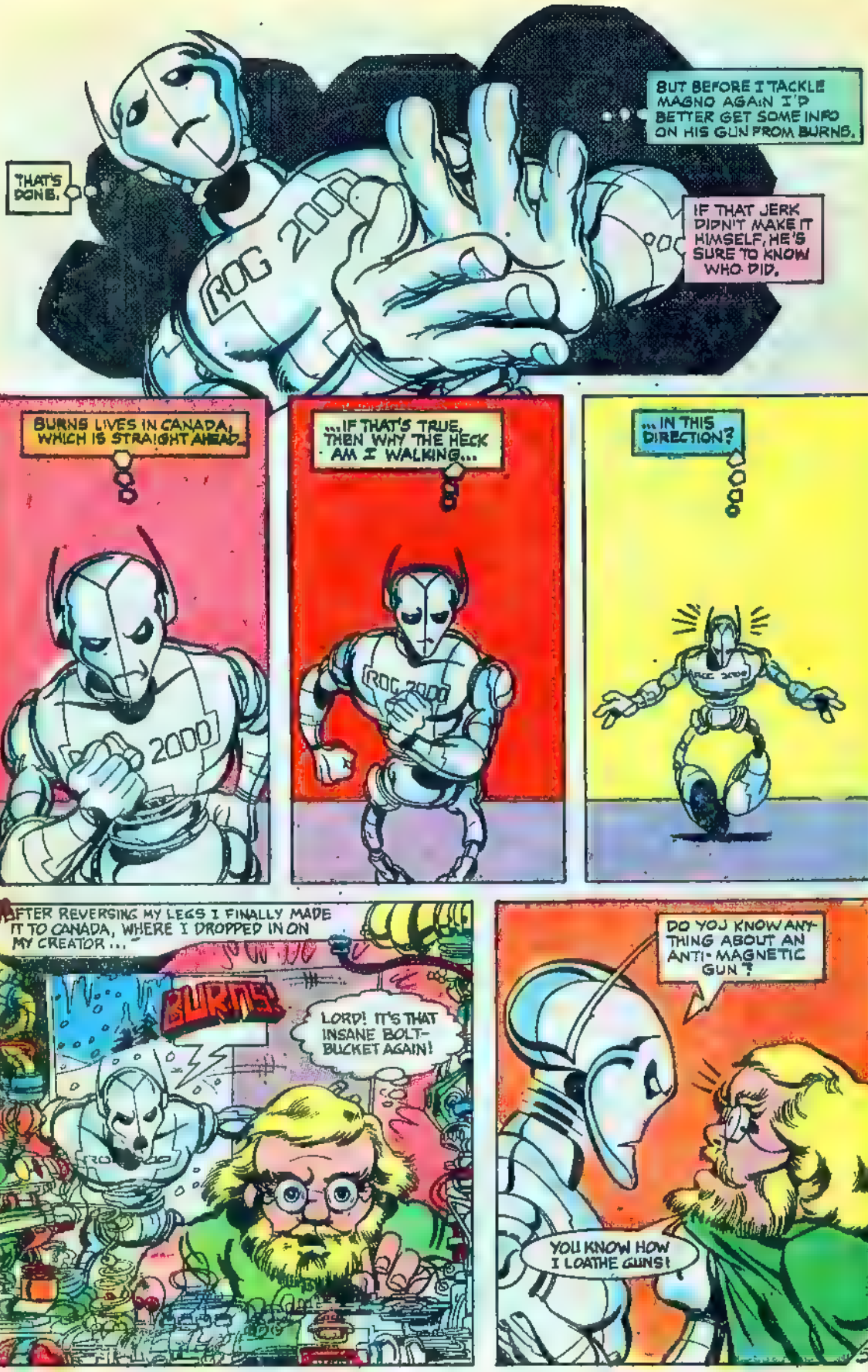

A SHIRLEY TEMPLE FOR THE LADY, AND AND THE USUAL FOR ME... UH, EASY ON THE MACHINE OIL.
ROG 2000
THAT'S QUITE A PRETTY LADY YOU'VE GOT THERE, ROG.


SHE'S PRETTY, ALRIGHT, BUT SHE'S NOT REALLY A LADY. THERE'S A STRANGE STORY BEHIND HER, WANNA HEAR IT?
SURE DO, LISTENING TO STORIES IS PART OF MY JOB.

"I WAS DRIVING MY CAB ALONG THE AMERICAS WHEN I GOT A CALL FROM MY DISPATCHER TO PICK UP A FARE ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE."
GOTCHA! I'M ON MY WAY!
STATION DIES!
"AS HE GOT INTO MY CAB I NOTICED HE WASN'T DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER BECAUSE IT WAS A HOT, CLOUDLESS NIGHT."
THE BOWERY.
RIGHT.
THAT'S WEIRD. HE DIDN'T TELL WHERE ON THE BOWERY OKAY THE BOWERY IT IS.
"ALL THE WAY OVER HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD UNTIL I SAID..."
ARE YOU EXPECTING RAIN, BUDDY? THE RAINCOAT AND HAT MADE ME THINK OF A STORM.
A STORM, YES. BUT NOT A RAINSTORM! HA HA HA!
"HE LAUGHED NERVOUSLY FOR A WHILE, WHICH MADE ME NERVOUS, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE LEFT THE CAB WITHOUT PAYING."
HEY, BUDDY, YOU OWE THE METER TWO TWENTY-SIX PLUS A TIP!
YOU ARE BEGINNING TO BORE ME!
I HATE TO BE BORED!
EEEYOW! I'M GLAD HE'S JUST BORED WITH ME. I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE HIM MAD!

AWAKEN PEOPLE OF THE SLUMS AND FLEE YOUR HOMES! SLUM LORDS EVERYWHERE TAKE HEED, FOR I, MAGNO, AM ON THE RAMPAGE!
I HAVE COME TO DESTROY WHAT YOU WOULD NOT MAINTAIN!
...AND IN THE CAB HE WAS LIKE A MOUSE.
I WILL BLOW YOU APART BY THE SEAMS AND RIVETS UNTIL YOU ARE PILES OF JUNK INSTEAD OF THE STANDING JUNK YOU ARE NOW!
"WHEREVER THE RAY TOUCHED BUILDINGS FLEW APART AS IF INVISIBLE CLAWS WERE RIPPING AT THEM!"
BAAA-FROOM
HOLD IT, MAC! YOU'RE VIOLATING SEVERAL CITY ORDINANCES! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...
FAT CHANCE HE'LL DO THAT.
FOOLS! I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE BUGS!
HEY! WE'RE FALLING APART!
BEWARE! THE WRATH OF MAGNO!

"I THEN DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING WHICH ANY NEW YORKER, IN HIS RIGHT MIND, WOULD NEVER DO. I GOT INVOLVED."
THIS JUNGLE NEEDS CLEANING BUT HIS METHODS ARE A BIT ROUGH.
BUDDY, YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH THAT GUN, YOU'D BETTER GIVE IT TO ME.
DON'T YOU WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT?
"...AN, DID HE G VE IT TO ME!"
CLUNG!
"I WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE!"
THE SITUATION HAS TAKEN A BAD TURN.
"BUT, AS LONG AS I STILL HAD MY WITS, AND CONTROL OF MY LIMBS I KNEW I COULD GET MYSELF BACK TOGETHER."
GLAD I ALWAYS KEEP ONE OF THESE HANDY!
WITH SKILL THAT WOULD IMPRESS MY CREATOR I BEGAN THE HEROIC TASK OF REASSEMBLING MYSELF."
LESSEE 'DEPRESS PIN A, WHILE BEING CERTAIN THAT RETAINING RING C( ) IS DIRECTLY OVER..."
4


THAT'S DONE.
BUT BEFORE I TACKLE MAGNO AGAIN I'D BETTER GET SOME INFO ON HIS GUN FROM BURNS.
IF THAT JERK DIDN'T MAKE IT HIMSELF, HE'S SURE TO KNOW WHO DID.
BURNS LIVES IN CANADA, WHICH IS STRAIGHT AHEAD.
...IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHY THE HECK AM I WALKING...
...IN THIS DIRECTION?
AFTER REVERSING MY LEGS I FINALLY MADE IT TO CANADA, WHERE I DROPPED IN ON MY CREATOR...
BURNS!
LORD! IT'S THAT INSANE BOLT-BUCKET AGAIN!
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AN ANTI-MAGNETIC GUN?
YOU KNOW HOW I LOATHE GUNS!

THIS GUN MAGNETIZES METAL SO THAT PARTS OF A MACHINE FLY OFF IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. IT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BLOW THE RIVITS OUT OF STEEL GIRDERS.
OH, THAT ANTI-MAGNETIC GUN...
YOU DID MAKE IT, YOU DUMB...
...TELL ME ABOUT IT.
A MAN NAMED CHARLES MAGNO BOUGHT IT TO TAKE APART OLD BUILDINGS...
...IS MY FACE GETTING RED?
HE'S TAKING APART OLD BUILDINGS, ALRIGHT, BUT THERE'S PEOPLE STILL IN THEM. IS THERE ANY WAY TO STOP THAT GUN?
WELL, NO... EXCEPT MAYBE SYNTAC...
SYNTAC? WHAT'S A SYNTAC?
IT'S A NEW SORT OF ROBOT I'M WORKING ON. QUITE REVOLUTIONARY... AHH, THERE IT IS!
THAT'S A ROBOT? I LIKE THE DESIGN, BUT HOW IS SHE GOING TO STOP MAGNO?
WELL... LET ME EXPLAIN...
MEANWHILE, MAGNO HAD WORKED HIS WAY TO LEXINGTON AVENUE...
DIE! FILTH AND CORRUPTION! I SHALL SINK THIS ENTIRE ISLAND INTO THE OCEAN!
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CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

WHAT DO YOU WANT? IF YOU'RE A POLICE-WOMAN DON'T THINK I WON'T BLAST YOU!
NOT ME! I THINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS FAR OUT! I MEAN I CAN REALLY DIG IT!
I'M DOING IT ALL FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD! I SHALL BE RECORDED IN HISTORY AS A HERO!
RI-I-GHT! THERE'S A BANK 'ROUND THE CORNER. WHY DON'T WE BLOW IT APART?
ROB...
...A...
...BANK?
YOU'RE NOT A HIPPIE! YOU WERE TRYING TO GET ME OFF GUARD! WHO ARE YOU?
I'M FROM BURNS. HE SENT ME TO GET HIS GUN BACK!
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TELL ME THAT! I'LL BLAST YOU APART LIKE I DID THAT OTHER WALKING OIL-CAN ...
GOOD-BYE, ROBOT!
HUH? SO... YOU'RE NOT A ROBOT!
SHE'S A ROBOT ALRIGHT BUT SHE'S MADE OF ELECTRIC CONDUCTING PLASTIC INSTEAD OF METAL.
BUT YOU...
...ARE NOT!

I THOUGHT I WAS DONE FOR BECAUSE I HAD PLAYED MY HAND TOO SOON, BUT SYNTAC HAD ONE MORE TRICK UP HER SLEEVE..."
"ONE FLASH OF HER BABY-BLUES AND IT WAS ALL OVER FOR MAGNO!"
THANKS, KID, I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!
SO...I'M JUST A WALKING OIL CAN, EH?
DID I CALL YOU THAT? ALLOW ME TO MAKE A FORMAL APOLOGY RIGHT...
...NOOOOOWWW!
POW!
NO APOLOGY NECESSARY, MAGNO. I NEVER HOLD A GRUDGE.
SHE'S REALLY SOMETHING, EVEN IF SHE AIN'T A LADY.
YEAH, BUT SO LONG AS SHE CAN DO THAT WE'RE JUST GOING TO BE GOOD FRIENDS.
END

OR, CAN CHARLTON CREATE THE NEXT COMICS REVOLUTION?

The following article is reprinted from "The New York Review of Comics and Books" with the kind permission of Steve Stern.

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As editor and publisher of THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF COMICS & BOOKS, I thought I might immodestly and, perhaps a bit prematurley, inaugurate our first annual "Most Commendable Comic of the Year" competition. Inasmuch as my vote will be but one of many — ours being a truly democratic publication — I hereby and publicly cast my ballot for E-MAN.

This comic is one that truly dares to be different. It represents to me what may well come to be regarded as a milestone effort to bring a relatively sophisticated black-humor comic to the American market. As such — as an innovator — E-MAN may seem quite strange to those readers who choose not to look beyond the boundaries of the conventional. Need we recall that Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was generally regarded as an "oddball science-fiction writer" when he came upon the literary scene many, many years ago. Today, of course, he is hailed as a genius, and his following is enormous. I mention Vonnegut here not only to urge for a more rapid acceptance of E-MAN, which will obviously be necessary if the comic is to flourish, but also because its entire conception — both story and art — reminds me of much of Vonnegut's writing, and that is not an altogether bad way to commence publication of a comic book.

The tone of the first three issues of E-MAN is suitably understated and on the "down" side. Author Nicola Cuti has a wonderful feel for subtle, sarcastic humor and underplayed, understated characterizations. Both of these are, generally, necessary elements of successful black humor. The other integral element is pointed satire; and I found it most strikingly evident in the third issue. The butt of the satiric joke in "The Energy Crisis" is, quite suitably, man's energy-greed and slovenliness. The story begins with harsh words: "Mother earth could no longer *feed* her wayward child. The delinquent juvenile had nearly drained its mother *dry* ... but wisdom and self-sacrifice could still *save them both* ... if mankind reacted to the crisis with maturity. If *not* ... the only way left was the depravity of the new Dark Ages." The villain of the issue, Samuel Boar, epitomizes all that is ugly in big business. "You see, E-MAN, "he says matter-of-factly, "I've been buying and selling things and people nearly all my life, so when the power crisis hit I just did what I've always done, I bought *people*. They make an excellent power source. Of course, after a week or so they become *used up* and have to be *replaced*."

On a somewhat lighter side, I must admit that I'm infatuated with E-MAN'S girl, Nova Kane. She is unquestionable, in her language, dress and attitudes, the most liberated, free young woman in American comics. Imagine — a comic-book heroine who is a college student by day — and an exotic dancer by night! I admire Nova because she is well aware of the stresses and problems of modern-day life, and yet, amazingly and refreshingly, she manages to remain virtually hangupfree. When a total frump of a supporting character, private eye Mike Mauser — who looks like the mouse he is — offers E-MAN, alias Alec Tronn, a partnership, Nova erupts sassily: "Not a *chance!* He's a big, lovable guy and I want him to stay that way ... not become a cynical creep like you!" Says Mauser: "That's a tough little broad you've got there." Agreed.

E-MAN himself is as gentle a superhero as any you'll encounter. He is something of a hip Captain Marvel (Shazam variety). At the same time, he reminds me of Vonnegut's most finely drawn protagonist, Billy Pilgrim, in *Slaughterhouse Five*. The fact that E-MAN is not, literally, a man, but rather an energy being who can assume the form of a man, seems to me to add a gently cosmic undertone to each issue. E-MAN believes in getting the job at hand done; he does not get ruffled by any situation and is not long on verbiage.

I find Joe Staton's artwork for E-MAN quite fluid and sculptural. His object is satire, and he achieves it in almost perfect fashion. I could only ask for even more caricature than he has already given us, and the artistic task, as far as I am concerned, will be complete.

What we have, then, is a new comic from a long-dormant company which offers us a refreshing and needed change from the usual Marvel and DC offerings. E-MAN is, like Dr. Johnson, an "original." I will be watching him with high expectations. My vote has been cast.

****

We, the editor, writer, and artist of E-MAN, jointly thank Steve Stern for his fine article on our character. We also wish him luck with his publication which is put out by S-P Enterprises, 482 Lincoln Ave., Orange, New Jersey 07050, at $.50 a copy.

CHARLTON PORTFOLIO: Containing articles and artwork on all Charlton super heroes and heroines and an UNPUBLISHED "BLUE BEETLE" STORY, is available through CPL/GANG Publications, 4010 Mallway Drive, Apartment A, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46236 at $2.50 a copy.

Adress all letters to the following, but please *do not* send us requests for the REVIEW or the PORTFOLIO:

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Derby, Connecticut 06418